

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Akira Nakano ET AL.

Appln. No.: 09/925,579

Filed: August 9, 2001

For: PLASMA PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND SYSTEM,
PERFORMANCE VALIDATION
SYSTEM AND INSPECTION
METHOD THEREFORE

Examiner: Rudy Zervigon

Art Unit: 1763

Attorney Docket No: 9281-4140

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), Applicants hereby cite the following reference(s):

| No. | Date of Publication |
|------------|---------------------|
| 2000150389 | 05/2000 |
| 6,051,284 | 04/2000 |
| 6,333,634 | 12/2001 |

Applicants are enclosing Form PTO-1449 (one sheet), along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2). As each of the listed references is in English, no further commentary is believed to be necessary, 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

By submitting this Statement, Applicants are attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 C.F.R. §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a).

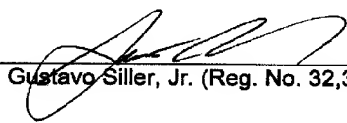
For purposes of 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d), Applicants certify that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Statement (a copy of a European Search Report dated October 6, 2006 for corresponding European Patent Application No. 06016997.6 is attached for the Examiner's reference).

Applicants hereby certify pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that no item of information in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement (a copy of any foreign communication first citing a listed reference is attached for the Examiner's reference). Applicants have further calculated a processing fee in the amount of \$180.00 to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in connection with the filing of this Statement. Applicants request that the processing fee of \$180 be charged to the deposit account, as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

October 26, 2006

Date



Gustavo Siller, Jr. (Reg. No. 32,305)

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| FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary) | SERIAL NO. | CASE NO. |
| | 09/925,579 | 9281-4140 |
| | FILING DATE August 9, 2001 | GROUP ART UNIT 1763 |
| APPLICANTS: Akira Nakano et al. | | |

| REFERENCE DESIGNATION | | | U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
| | D1 | 6,051,284 | 04/2000 | Byrne et al. | | |
| | D2 | 6,333,634 | 12/2001 | Kenji Haze et al. | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|--------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
| | D3 | 2000150389 | 05/2000 | Japan | | X |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) | |
|------------------|--|---|
| | D4 | Copy of European Search Report dated October 6, 2006 for corresponding European Patent Application No. 06016997.6 |
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|-----------------|------------------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|-----------------|------------------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.